

## IDENTIFY

*DSM-IV Spectrum of PDDs: Autism(299.00)/ Asperger Disorder(299.80)/ Rett Syndrome/  
Childhood Disintegrative Disorder/ PDD-NOS(299.80)*

*Frequency: 1/150 mild ASD spectrum/ 1/500 moderate to severe ASD spectrum*

Myriad of Autism Spectrum Conditions: “umbrella” presentation

*Types: essential idiopathic/ genetic (Fragile X/ TS/ Rett Syndrome/others)*

Developmental surveillance

Know the “First Signs”:

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter
- No back-and-forth **sharing** of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions by nine months or thereafter
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back-and-forth gestures, such as **pointing**, showing, reaching, or waving by 12 months
- No words by 16 months
- No two-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating) by 24 months
- Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age

*Screening Tool: M-CHAT: Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers*

Watchful waiting is more risky than over-referral

*Hunt for genes: zip code/ alleles/ no genetic epidemics/ multiple genes/ environmental exposure/  
types do not breed true/ highly inheritable/ sub-syndromal presentations are common*

Genetic testing is not needed

Many children over age 10 years have been “missed”

Girls with essential autism have much milder social and language deficits than boys.

## **DIAGNOSE**

*Delays:* communication and social development (non-verbal problem solving/ directing attention/ understanding words & phrases/ gesture use/ social-communication interaction)

*DSM-IV:* severe impairment in social interaction skills/ communication skills/ the presence of stereotyped behaviors, interests or activities.

*Theory of the Mind:* ability to perceive intent and purpose of others

*Central Coherence Deficits:* “ability to see the trees and not the forest”

*Executive Function Deficits:* selective/ shifting (modulation)/ sustained attention

Language delay is variable

## **TREAT**

*Treatment:* track and validate (T charts)/ no evidence biological treatments work/ medications address symptoms (SEEP: social/ emotional/ educational/ physical)

Speech and language ability, cognitive skills and temperament effect choice of treatment

*Treatment:* Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): systematic process of studying and modifying observable behavior through a manipulation of the environment/ Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA): the process of determining the cause (or "function") of behavior before developing an intervention. The intervention must be based on the hypothesized cause (function) of behavior.

Social Reciprocity Training

High Risk Situation Avoidance

Job Opportunities

Executive Function Development

## **SUCCEED**

Family well-being is primary

*Services:* comprehensive/ coordinated

*IFSP and IEP Goals*: stabilize family/ social engagement/ eliminate problematic behaviors/  
improve language

Different types of success: young child/ older child

“Give the child back to their family”

*CNSmS*: controlled/ naturalistic/ spontaneous with mentor/ spontaneous

Three part notebook

Acts of forgiveness

Live in the present

## **RESOURCES**

[www.medscape.com/viewarticle/504722\\_print](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/504722_print) Developmental Screening

[www.utm.edu/pediatrics/general/clinical/m-chat.pdf](http://www.utm.edu/pediatrics/general/clinical/m-chat.pdf) M-CHAT

[www.utm.edu/pediatrics/general/clinical/m-chat-scoring.pdf](http://www.utm.edu/pediatrics/general/clinical/m-chat-scoring.pdf) M-CHAT Scoring

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/118/1/405> Identifying Infants and Young Children with Developmental Disorders

[www.medscape.com/resource/autism](http://www.medscape.com/resource/autism) Medscape Autism Center

[www.pri-med.com/pmo/PriMedInPractice.aspx?ShowPage=3](http://www.pri-med.com/pmo/PriMedInPractice.aspx?ShowPage=3) Autism Pocket Guide

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5601a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5601a1.htm) Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders

[www.cdc.gov/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/autism) CDC Autism Center

[www.autismspeaks.com](http://www.autismspeaks.com) General resource

[www.firstsigns.org](http://www.firstsigns.org) General resource

[www.medicalhomeinfo.org](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org) AAP Resource

<http://rsaffran.tripod.com/whatisaba.html> Applied Behavior Analysis resource

[www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipl.fab.starin.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipl.fab.starin.htm) Functional Behavioral Assessment resource

[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com) Advocacy